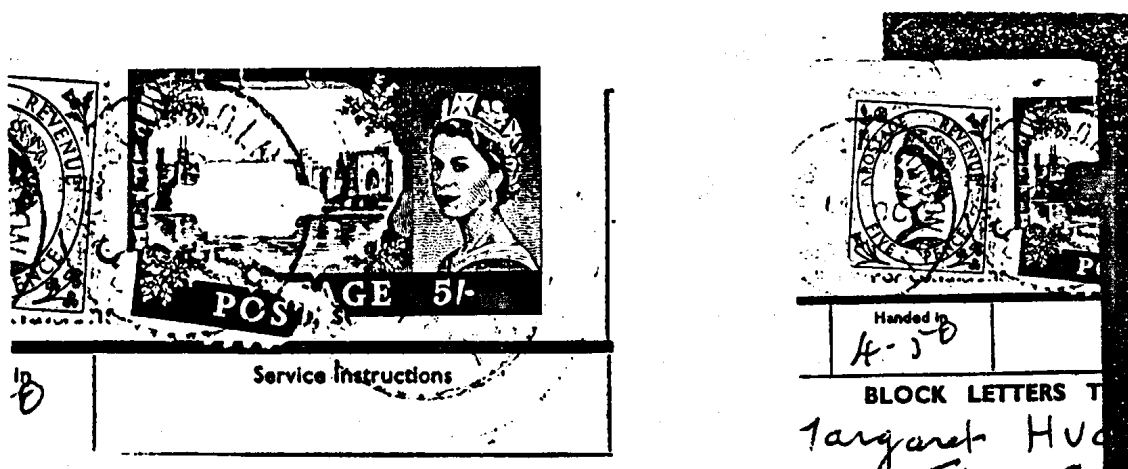


When Is A Perfin Not A Perfin Bulletin 268 Pg.22.

The Post Office Cancelling Punch shown on the booklet pane of stamps has come to light again.

STEPHEN STEERE sent me a telegram from 1964 which he had bought at a Stamp Fair. The original cost of sending the telegram was paid by postage stamps which were affixed to the top of the telegram. The 5/- value was punched through with an identical punch to the one shown in Bulletin 268. The two illustrations below show the 5/- stamp actual size and a reduced copy of the telegram showing how it had been folded down the centre and the clip taken out.



By a strange co-incidence, in the same post came photocopies of 5 more of these telegrams, all from 1964/5, from NEV HAYWARD. These however had some different punch 'cancels' on the high value stamps. One £1 stamp looks to have a diamond shape punch (which Nev thinks could have been done by hand); another three similar to the punch illustrated here but smaller and more square; and one that looks as if it was just punctured with a blunt point (pencil).

Nev makes the observation that the 'holes', whatever form they take, are only on the high value stamps. The telegram forms are from different offices which would indicate each office had its own punch, or most offices did.

Does this point to a Post Office procedure? Could it mean that some of our 'Designs' could be made from these punches? Readers comments would be appreciated.